a very large population of Jews, who have become general tradesmen and brokers to the community. 438 441

The cereal crop is the subject of elaborate commercial transactions, and much of it is sold two or three times before it is harvested. The lack of proper storage leads to the rapid dispersal of the bulk of the surplus crop. Odessa and Nikolaev have corn exchanges where the export of the crop is financed, and there is an exchange for internal cereal trade at Yelisavetgrad.

The sugar trade is subject to Government control. A committee fixes annually the amount of sugar to be placed on the home market and the distribution of supplies to the refineries, the quantity so dealt with paying the minimum excise. After this allocation any surplus remaining is disposed of according to the general state of the market and the stock held over from the previous season, and is allotted for internal use or export. Russia was a signatory to the Sugar Convention of 1907, and agreed that, during the six years from the date of the convention, she should not export in all more than 1,000,000 tons. This specially affected the Ukraine as the principal sugar-producing area in Russia. 438 655

The sugar and alcohol markets are at Kiev, Kharkov, and Odessa. 438

Wool of the finer sorts called 'Spanish' is dealt in principally at Kharkov, which is also the chief market for leather.

There is a flax market at Novozybkov in the province of Chernigov.

The principal timber markets are Yekaterinoslav and Kherson.

Odessa is a market for a great number of commodities produced in the interior, especially food-stuffs, cattle, tobacco, and vegetable oils.

The custom of transacting important business at fixed fairs is of very long standing in the Ukraine, and, while the importance of every fair tends to decrease at present owing to the adoption of other methods of trading, the fairs continue to be held, and, especially 438 443

9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

438 in petty classes of trade, are still the occasion of much
443 buying and selling. The principal ones are as follows:

At Kiev the so-called Kontraktovaya fair is held from February 5 to 29. The goods dealt in are carpets, woven materials, silk, ready-made clothing, wooden goods, preserved fish, groceries, sugar, flax, iron, machines, coal, and salt. The real importance of the fair lies in its being the meeting-place for traders of all sorts from the neighbouring provinces. Bankers, agriculturists, and manufacturers meet to settle old and to make new contracts (hence its title), to liquidate or renew bills, &c. The turnover is about £250,000.

Poltava has a fair called Illinskaya from July 1 to 31. It is exclusively for the sale of skins, leather, and manufactures thereof. The turnover averages about £100,000.

Kharkov has four annual fairs, named after the religious festivals at which they are held: (1) Kreshenskaya (Epiphany), January 6 to February 1, for trade in manufactured goods, groceries, peltry, and leather. The turnover is about £1,250,000. (2) Troitskaya (Trinity), June 1 to 30, for trade in wool, sheepskins, and manufactured goods. Turnover, about £500,000. (3) Uspenskaya (Assumption), August 1 to 31, for manufactured and colonial goods. Turnover, about £900,000. (4) Pokrovskaya (Intercession of the Virgin), October 1 to 26 for general trade, as at Kreshenskaya. Turnover, about £1,250,000.

Jitomir has a hop fair from September 6 to 14 for the sale of the season's crop, the value of which fluctuates widely from year to year.

A large annual fair, principally for the disposal of wool, is held at Kakhovka.

438 The internal trade of the Ukraine is generally
452 conducted on the basis of a long credit, six to nine months by bill: and the fairs and exchanges give opportunity to gauge the general financial state of the country, which is almost totally dependent upon harvest conditions, and to provide for liquidation or renewal of the floating credit as circumstances require.

731 262 [443] 265 Most of the UNRRA food supplies delivered to the Ukraine are distributed to ration stores for sale to workers and their dependants. A large proportion (about 35 per cent.) also goes for communal feeding through dining rooms, health resorts, homes for invalids and the aged, and dining halls of trade schools. Hospitals, childrens' homes, maternity homes, and the like also receive a share (around 10 per cent.) (The food distributed to welfare organizations is delivered free of charge).

731 26- 434 Apart from the food which UNRRA supplies, the Ukrainian people are dependent on whatever amounts of local produce may appear on various markets. According to the rationing system, the farmers are allowed to retain part of their produce to feed themselves and their dependants, and the farm's livestock; the state then purchases a certain quota for use in feeding the non-farm population. If any surplus then remains, the farmers may keep it, or sell it on the free market at uncontrolled prices.

241 433 434 In practice, however, because of the extremely poor harvests in the last two years, Ukrainian farmers have scarcely been able to feed even themselves; and the amounts of domestically produced food which reach the ration stores or the free market have consequently been small.

The following section describes the sources of food supply open to the urban consumers.

The System of Food Distribution

443 434 In the cities of the Ukraine there are three outlets through which foodstuffs reach the population:

361 262 (a) the ration stores, where the bulk of foodstuffs are sold at fixed prices to ration-coupon holders;

(b) the so-called gastronoms (commercial stores) where scarce, luxury items are sold; and

(c) the public markets, where collective farmers and peasants bring their surplus produce for sale.

Most of the rural areas and villages of the Ukraine are expected to produce locally enough food to feed the inhabitants; and as they are nearly all considered to be self-supplying, they receive through the central distribution system only sugar and sometimes bread. Their surplus farm produce (that is, food in excess of that needed for feeding people or livestock on the farm and not subject to collection or purchase by the state) is usually brought by the farmers to the public markets for sale to the urban population. [435] The quantities of produce and the variety of items available in the free public markets vary greatly from season to season and from day to day; prices are equally unstable.

000 day to day; prices are equally unstable.

Ration Stores

443 Members of the UNRRA Mission have visited ration stores in all 434 the more important cities of the Ukraine. The city of Kiev, for 21 example, has about 300, all of them much alike. The typical ration food store serves from 2,000 to 2,500 families living in the immediate neighbourhood; if a family moves, it changes its ration card registration to a store in its new locality. Some stores, however, serve the employees of a particular factory or organization as well as a neighbourhood; others are limited to special categories of customers, such as veterans, pregnant women and nursing mothers, teachers, doctors, and scientific workers; these stores have a slightly more varied stock of goods; and in the case of shops for pregnant women and nursing mothers, the roster of customers is smaller so that there is no waiting to be served.

437 Except for bread, most of the food sold in Ukrainian ration shops in 1946 was supplied by UNRRA. Many of these relief supplies, however, did not fit into the established rationing system; therefore many rather elaborate substitution schemes had to be devised, particularly for U.S. army C, K and ten-in-one rations, which were often substituted for a variety of foods. These schemes were said to be in effect throughout the Ukraine, local bodies having authority to make minor changes in substitution values to fit whatever stocks of goods were on hand at the moment.

For example, according to the scheme effective in Kiev in March 1946, if a customer was entitled to buy one kilogram of meat or fish monthly, he might possible substitute 15 eggs, or 200 grams of powdered milk, or 800 grams of sausage, or a 600 gram can of UNRRA tushonka[1] provided any of these were available. In lieu of one kilogram of fat rarely available the customer might buy 60 eggs, or two kilos of cheese, or 5 kilograms of sour cream, or 1.6 kilograms of powdered milk, or 400 grams of peanut butter, again provided they were available.

The army ten-in-one rations are packed in two cardboard boxes, labelled "first half" and "second half". In Kiev the "first half" was considered to be equivalent to 500 grams of fat and 1½ kilograms of sugar; while the "second half" was equivalent to 2 kilograms of meat and 500 grams of sugar.

In Poltava in April 1946 one U.S. army K ration was being considered the equivalent of 800 grams of meat or 206 grams of fat; one C ration, equal to 925 grams of meat or 310 grams of fat; the first half of a ten-in-one ration equalled 1,500 grams of meat or 500 grams of fat, and the second half of a ten-in-one ration, four kilograms of meat or 1,350 grams of fat.

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[1] A canned meat mixture.

Gastronoms

443 434 262 554 461 In addition to the ration stores, Kiev has about five gastronoms, or commercial stores, where unrationed goods are for sale. Most of the gastronoms are stocked almost entirely with delicacies, such as Siberian crabmeat, live carp in water tanks, a little fresh meat, salami, candy, biscuits, and Russian cigarettes. (No UNRRA goods are sold in such stores). Until September 1946 the prices in gastronoms were so high that only a relatively small part of the population could afford to buy. The gastronoms were patronized primarily by those with high earnings - professors, theatrical stars, scientists, artists, high ranking army officers, skilled technicians, etc. One of their main purposes was to show the average worker that some luxuries did exist, and thus encourage him to raise his skills and productivity. Another purpose was to provide a special reward for various kinds of meritorious service. For example, war heroes and top generals were entitled to a 40 per cent discount on all purchases made at a gastronom. Moreover, workers who had stayed at the same factory for six years or more were entitled to a 20 per cent discount, and office workers with similar service to 10 per cent.

[435] In September 1946, in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. to abolish differences between the higher "commercial" prices and the low prices of rationed goods, the prices in gastronoms were lowered and certain ration prices, raised somewhat.

[465] At the same time, taking into account the difficulties which average and low-paid workers would encounter as a result of higher ration prices, the Council of Ministers decided to increase all salaries of less than 900 roubles a month. Thus, those workers who previously had earned up to 300 roubles a month received an increase of 110 roubles; those who had earned up to 500 roubles, another 80. Similar increases were allowed in pensions and in students' stipends.

So far as UNRRA food is concerned, the increases in ration prices have affected meat, fish, fats and oils, other categories of UNRRA food supplies particularly milk, cheese, and army rations were not affected.

434 435 The following table shows the increases in ration store prices.

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TABLE XXVII

Ukraine: Prices of Rationed Food
(in roubles per kilogram)

	Before October 1, 1946	After October 1, 1946	Percentage increase
Bread (black with rye)	0.9	3.2	255
Bread (whole wheat)	1.8	6.0	240
Meat tushonka	16.6	32.0	87
Pork in gravy	20.5	35.3	72
Meat and vegetables	10.0	15.3	53
Pork and rice	15.7	30.7	90
Meat and corn	10.0	17.7	77
Herrings in tomato sauce	11.5	25.0	117
Herrings in natural oil	17.2	37.5	118
Smoked cod	9.8	18.0	84
Lard	18.0	36.0	100

Source: UNRRA Mission to the Ukraine, Kiev.

Public Markets

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The third kind of outlet for the distribution of food to the urban population is the public markets (officially called "Collective Farm Markets"). Their importance as a source of supplementary food is difficult generally to assess. On the one hand, extremely high prices plus the inconstancy or inadequacy of supplies prevent any group in the population from depending on the public markets for any substantial part of its diet; on the other hand, the variety of food sometimes available impels many to supplement the limited amounts and kinds of foods secured at the ration stores by purchases in the public markets. While prices are fixed and rigidly controlled in the ration stores, there is no control of prices whatever in the public markets, and the seller and purchaser usually agree on the price after a rather elaborate process of bargaining. On account of the limitations in supply, the selling prices are usually dear.

There are striking differences between the fixed, ration store prices and the uncontrolled market place prices. For example, in July 1946 (before ration prices were raised) white bread which - depending on the extraction rate of flour - was selling in ration stores at 90 kopecks[1] to 2.7 roubles a kilogram was selling in the public markets at 28.5 to

1 There are 160 kopecks to a rouble

443 435 262 41.6 roubles a kilogram. Butter, which was almost never available, in the ration stores at 24 roubles a kilogram, and in the public markets, at 150. The price of sugar in the public markets was, on July 10, four to five times the ration store price.

443 262 433 In addition to these products for which there are comparable prices in the ration stores, the public markets also offered certain foodstuffs which were seldom or never available in the ration stores. In the public markets of Kiev dressed beef was selling for 70 roubles a kilogram on June 5, 1946, and 60 roubles on July 6; milk, which on June 3 brought 15 roubles a litre was selling for 12 to 14 roubles on July 6. The fall in the price of tomatoes illustrates the play of demand and supply; when the first fresh tomatoes arrived on the public markets, they brought 15 roubles for each small tomato; by the end of July the price had fallen to 3.5 or 4 roubles for large size tomatoes of the best quality. Similar price reductions occurred in other vegetables and fruits; in each case, however, prices were still extremely high; even when the crops had been harvested, the demand remained far greater than the supply.

The extent of the shortages may be gathered from a report by the UNRRA Mission in June 1946, when a tour of Kiev's two great public markets revealed only one pound of meat, several fowls, small quantities of milk and butter from nearby farms, fifteen small sausages being sold from one can, and a few miscellaneous titbits such as matches, cigarettes, and candy from a ten-in-one ration.

Present supplies are even more attenuated. Ration scales have been cut, and this naturally increases the demand for supplies in the public markets. As the demand grows and supplies dwindle, prices rise even higher. The next table compares free market prices in June 1946, July 1946, and January 1947.

TABLE XXVIII

Ukraine: Food Prices in a Typical Public Market
(in roubles)

	June 1946	July 1946	January 1947
Bread, kilo	22.5	23.0	50.0 - 55.0
Meat "	about 60.0	70 - 100	60.0
Fish "	-	-	65.0
Milk, litre	16.0	15.0	16.0
Butter, kilo	190.0	190.0	230.0
Eggs, dozen	42.0	48.0	-
Cereals (various) kilo	-	50.0	-
Sugar	-	100.0	-
Vegetable oil	-	200.0	200.0

- Very little or none on sale. Supplies vary greatly but are never very large.

Source: UNRRA Mission to the Ukraine, Kiev.

UNRRA Supplies and the Food Situation

Until the produce from local farms became available in the spring and summer of 1946, the diet of the urban population of the Ukraine depended principally, apart from bread, on UNRRA food supplies, which in the beginning consisted almost entirely of U.S. army rations, plus some dried and evaporated milk and tushonka. Urgently needed fats and oils were slow in arriving; up to May only 8,596 tons had been received in the Ukraine. The shortage was critical, since domestic production was providing a rate of only 4 to 5 kilograms of fats a year per person, as compared with 12.8 in 1940 and 22 kilograms in 1929.

Very little food was being received from other parts of the Soviet Union, and a protracted dry spell was threatening the 1946 harvest. Official rations for almost all categories of consumers were low;